

## A B S T R A C T

The invention relates to apparatus for generating ions in a gaseous medium, the apparatus comprising one or  
5 more needles (40) each presenting a shank (40.1) and an emitter end (40.2), a sheath (42) of composite material comprising glass fiber reinforced unsaturated polyester surrounding the shank (40.1) of each needle, and means  
10 (44, 46, 80) for applying a voltage between two portions of the shank of each needle.

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